

Fourteenth Report
OF
THE DERBYSHIRE
County Pauper Lunatic Asylum.

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS.

SIR HUGH SEYMOUR BLANE, BART. (CHAIRMAN).

THE RIGHT HON. LORD VERNON.

SIR HENRY SACHEVERELL WILMOT, BART.

THOMAS WILLIAM EVANS, Esq., M.P.

WILLIAM MUNDY, Esq.

THOMAS PEACH, Esq., M.D.

JOHN RADFORD, Esq.

LUCIUS EDWARD MANN, Esq.

FRANCIS WESTBY BAGSHAW, Esq.

EDWARD RADFORD, Esq.

FRANCIS BRADSHAW, JUN., Esq.

ASHTON MOSLEY, Esq.

JAMES HEYGATE, Esq., M.D.

JOHN BROADHURST, Esq.

CHARLES EDMUND NEWTON, Esq.

EDMUND WILMOT, Esq.

TREASURER..... GEORGE CROMPTON, Esq.

SUPERINTENDENT PHYSICIAN DR. HITCHMAN.

CHAPLAIN THE REV. WM. FINDLEY.

CLERK AND STEWARD..... MR. JOHN LANGLEY.

JOHN BARBER,

CLERK OF THE PEACE.

*To the Justices of the Peace of the County of Derby,
at their General Quarter Sessions of the Peace,
held at Derby, on the 2nd of January, 1866.*

THE REPORT OF THE VISITORS OF THE DERBY COUNTY ASYLUM.

We mentioned in our last Report that we had reluctantly given Notice to terminate the then existing Agreement for the reception in this Asylum of Pauper Patients from the Borough of Derby. The Borough Authorities having urgently pressed for the continued admission of their Patients, and assented to the terms proposed by us and approved by the Sessions, additions are about to be made by which the Borough Patients may hereafter be received into this Asylum, upon Terms presently and permanently advantageous to the County.

The erection of a Chapel apart from the Asylum, has been repeatedly recommended by the Commissioners in Lunacy. The space at present occupied as a Chapel is much needed for other purposes, and we recommend that a separate Chapel be built, and plans and estimates obtained.

The Management of the Asylum is shown by its marked success, and the unqualified approbation of the Official and other Visitors to be all that can be desired.

H. SEYMOUR BLANE,

Chairman.

TO THE COMMITTEE OF VISITORS OF THE
DERBY COUNTY ASYLUM.

GENTLEMEN,

During the past year there have been admitted into the Derby County Asylum eighty-four Patients, and it is somewhat remarkable that the sexes have been admitted in equal proportions, namely, forty-two Male and forty-two Female Patients, being an average of seven patients per month through the entire year. The order of admissions have been as follows :—

	No. of Patients.	Male.	Female.
January	8	2	6
February ...	8	5	3
March	7	6	1
April	8	3	5
May	8	6	2
June	5	2	3
July	8	5	3
August	4	2	2
September...	5	2	3
October	7	1	6
November ...	11	6	5
December ...	5	2	3
Total ...	84	42	42

Of the above Patients, 66 were in an enfeebled state of bodily health at the time of their admission, and, apart from their mental derangement, needed Medical care and generous support. Some

were much exhausted. M. G. required the use of a water-bed from the time of her admission to the day of her death, a period of twelve weeks. J. P., whose legs bore evidence of severe mechanical restraint, sunk in sixteen days. M. L. was admitted with two wounds in her neck, one effected with a blunt knife, the other with a sharp razor, she recovered rapidly and has been discharged cured. The Mortality during the past year has been under 7 per cent. of the number under treatment, and death has been the result, chiefly, of long continued organic disease of the nervous system. No single case of Fever or Dysentery, or any other malady which is usually ascribed to avoidable causes, such as imperfect ventilation, overcrowding, deficient drainage, improper or scanty supply of food or warmth has occurred, and the general health of the Patients has been good.

The deaths have been twenty-seven in number, and have arisen from the following assigned causes :—

Disease.	Male.	Female.
General Paralysis	6	1
Paralysis and Softening of the Brain.....	4	2
Epilepsy	1	„
„ with Congestion of Lung	1	„
„ Disease of Heart	„	1
Accidental Choking in cases of extreme Paralysis	2	„
*Gastric Fever	1	„
Pulmonary Consumption	„	2
Tubercular disease of Mesentery	„	1
Ulceration of Bowel	1	„
Abcess of Spleen and Peritonitis	1	„
Disease of Heart	„	1
General Debility	1	1
Total	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 9

In three of the above cases a Coroner's Inquest was held. Two of the Patients died from lodgment of food in the larynx while eating, which caused suffocation.

Large numbers of Paralysed Patients require their food to be rubbed or ground into a minute pulp, because of their inability to control the muscles of deglutition, and in some idiotic cases because of their ravenous mode of eating. These latter poor creatures sometimes endeavour to swallow large pieces of meat or bread without division or mastication, and the food becomes impacted in the gullet, and by excluding air from the windpipe, produces death, if immediate surgical aid be not given. No Idiotic Patient has died from this cause, but two Patients in extreme stages of General Paralysis have died from the cause above stated. An inquest was also held on a Patient who died suddenly from Epilepsy.

It is a source of the deepest gratification to be able to record that no case of Suicide has occurred, although many suicidal Patients have been under treatment.

One Patient who had long suffered from a species of Bulimia, or depressed appetite, who seized upon and ate whatever he could, ultimately died with symptoms resembling “*Gastric Fever,” but this case was traceable entirely to the special habits of the Patient, and not to causes external to himself.

The following removals have taken place during the year, namely—

	Males.	Females.
Cured	10	18
Relieved	2	1
Removed to other Asylums ...	1	6
	—	—
Total	13	25

There having been eighty-four admissions, and only sixty-five discharges, it follows that we have nineteen Patients more in the Asylum than we had at the corresponding period of 1864, and as there are fewer cases probably curable among the number, the necessity of an enlargement of the Asylum which has been generously resolved upon, becomes clear and urgent.

There have been one thousand six hundred and seven admissions since the opening of the Asylum in September, 1850, and there are at present under care three hundred and forty-two Patients, and as the sexes are in exactly equal proportions, there are only eight beds,—four on each side, at present, available for the County.

The following summary illustrates the general statistics of the Asylum during the past year—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining in the Asylum on			
December 31st 1864	160	163	323
Admitted during the year 1865 ...	42	42	84
Discharged Cured	10	18	28
„ Relieved	2	1	3
Removed to other Asylums by adjudication of Parishes, or other causes	1	6	7
Died.....	18	9	27
Remaining on December 31st, 1865	171	171	342

On the eighteenth of May six Female Patients chargeable to the Borough of Derby were conveyed to Haydock Lodge, a private Asylum near Warrington, in Lancashire. In addition to the Nurses and Officers sent by the Board of Guardians, they were accompanied by an experienced Nurse from this Institution, and the journey was accomplished with ease and comfort to the Patients. No other

Patients belonging to the Borough of Derby have, as yet, been removed, and of the three hundred and forty-two Patients now in the Asylum, twenty-five men and twelve women, are chargeable to it.

On the twenty-seventh of May last, a Patient was brought from Shirland with her face disfigured by recent smallpox ; the certificates were irregular in form, and I refused admission to the Patient—but not because of this technicality, but upon the broad basis of guarding from danger the three hundred and thirty-two Patients then in the House ; the sister of the Patient had died from smallpox. The sister who accompanied her, had but recently recovered, and I therefore availed myself of the 53rd section of the 16th and 17th Vic. c. 97, which provides that persons may be excluded from an Asylum who come “from any district or place in which any such disease or malady may be prevalent.”

It would seem superfluous to give minute details of the Amusements and Instruction which have been provided for the Patients ; but it is due to others to state that on the 10th of January last, a Mr. Duval, performing in Derby, gave free admission to his Pantomime to as many Patients as I deemed fit to go. Having ascertained that the Performance was a proper one, Fifteen Male and Twelve Female Patients, accompanied by myself and other officers, attended. Mrs. Huggins, of the King's Head Hotel, provided an omnibus and a pair of horses gratuitously, and Mr. Hackney, of Peter Street, lent a light van, so that a large party was entertained conveniently and economically.

The Thursday evening in each week, throughout the Winter, is devoted to brief Readings, Magic Lantern Exhibitions, and Dancing, or such other Amusements as may be thought conducive to the well-being of the Patients. The “Christmas Eve” Entertain-

ment, which was greatly enjoyed, came off on Thursday, December 28th instant, because of Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday. As heretofore, Mr. Pigott, of Findern, has kindly aided every week in the amusement and instruction of the Patients.

The Chapel Services have been conducted with great efficiency by the Rev. W. Findley, the Chaplain—and this prompts me to record that the enlargement of the Asylum, which has become urgent, which was determined upon at the last Quarter Sessions, and the plans for which have been approved by the Commissioners in Lunacy and the Secretary of State, renders increased accommodation for Divine Service absolutely necessary. In proportion as the Patients are raised by benign treatment to a better state of mind and feeling, the need of a place consecrated to the worship of the Supreme becomes felt and coveted. It was once thought absurd to permit the Insane to attend Public Worship; it was deemed wrong to allow any to partake of the Holy Sacrament; but now, thanks to the eloquent teachings of wise and humane men, more correct ideas prevail, and it is known that the immortal spirit may be solaced by Religious Ordinances, although the Brain, the material organ through which its operations are manifested, may be disordered and disturbed. Indeed, no where can be found more sincere and devout Worshipers than may be seen in any well-conducted Lunatic Asylum; at this place the room which is used as a Chapel, is very crowded on the Males' side every Sabbath, and although a seat intended for Officers is allotted to Patients, the need for further room is urgent, and I hope that the Magistrates of the County will deem it right to provide for the Religious needs of the Insane poor, in the same manner as the Counties of Chester, Worcester, Lancaster, Middlesex, and York have provided for their Lunatic Patients. By increased admissions, and by the conscientious labours of our Chaplain, the room allotted to Divine Worship has become inadequate for the purpose. The necessity for better provision

is further increased by the character which Mental Derangement now assumes. The violent and frantic Mania, once so common, is becoming more rare, and is replaced or represented by morbid gloom, despondency, and great bodily prostration. The intellect is not so wildly bewildered, but the feelings are more deeply affected, and, therefore, the ministrations of a discreet and pious Pastor becomes a powerful auxiliary to the Physician. The Sermons of our present Chaplain are prepared to meet the mental conditions of the large number of Patients who are suffering from morbid fears and despondency, and his services would be more profitable to the Patients, if conducted in a better room. The mere transition of such Patients from the walls of their daily abode to a Church external to it, and possessing the form and character which are associated in their memories as belonging to a sacred place, would aid in dispersing the shadows which rest upon their feelings, and in strengthening the sacred words which fall from the lips of the Preacher. This has been experienced wherever the change has been wisely carried out. At the County Asylum of Worcester, at a cost of about Two Thousand Pounds, the change which I earnestly urge, namely, the conversion of an unconsecrated room into a Dining Hall, or Recreation Room, and the building of an ecclesiastical structure in the grounds of the Asylum, has been carried out, and the Chaplain of that Institution reported to the Committee of Visitors in the year following :—

“ I have great satisfaction in being able to inform you that the New Chapel has already been productive of the most beneficial effects on the Inmates of the Asylum. The congregations on a Sunday are large, and nearly as orderly, and quite as reverential as most congregations of sane persons.”

Like effects have followed in other places. The Patients conduct themselves well in our present Chapel, meagre as it is,—but

more room is needed, and I cannot refrain from hoping that the time has come, in which my former suggestion, repeated as it has been by the Commissioners in two distinct Reports, may be carried out; and that the enlargement of the Asylum sanctioned by the Court of Quarter Sessions, may include a Chapel built in harmony with the beauty, and character of the Asylum itself.



On the 12th of April, two of her Majesty's Commissioners in Lunacy spent more than five hours in inspecting the Asylum, and the Report, which they left, will, I trust, be acceptable to the Committee of Visitors, and to the County at large. It is as follows :—

“DERBY COUNTY ASYLUM,

“ 12th April, 1865.

“The total number of Patients in this Asylum is now 337, the whole of whom we have this day personally examined. We are glad, as on former occasions, to be able to report very favourably of their general condition. They were personally clean and well dressed, and their conduct quiet and orderly. At the time of our visit only one Female Patient was in seclusion.

“The rule of non-restraint is still strictly adhered to, and the cases of seclusion are not numerous. The arrangements for exercise and amusement have been detailed in former entries, and it appears that they remain without change.

“As regards useful employment, the records show an average of about 70 men and 74 women regularly occupied. The farm and garden, which are worked by the men, furnish a sufficient supply of vegetables for the use of the Asylum, and it should be noted that two sorts of vegetables are given at the Patients' dinners all the year round.

“ We noticed as usual a liberal supply of games, books, &c., in the Wards, and the Thursday Evening Entertainments are regularly held once a week. Some Theatrical Performances are also given occasionally.

“ The Chapel Services are performed once on Sunday, and prayers are read daily in the Wards.

“ The Establishment is throughout in excellent order, and the Wards were clean and well ventilated. The beds are all composed of horse-hair, and their condition was very creditable to the Attendants. There is a large proportion of old, feeble, and paralyzed cases, and 10 men and 11 women are now under medical treatment, but the general health is good, and the mortality since the last visit has been small. The principal causes of death have been General Paralysis, Epilepsy, and Pulmonary Consumption. No fatal accident has occurred.

“ Since our colleague's visit, 46 men and 36 women have been admitted, 15 men and 20 women have been discharged, of whom 27 were recovered, and 15 men and 12 women have died.

“ The present numbers are 165 of the male and 173 of the female sex, and one male patient is absent on trial.

“ Sixty-four of the present inmates belong to the town of Derby, but they are kept here on the understanding that they shall be removed in case more accommodation is required for County Patients, and no new cases belonging to the Borough have recently been received.

“ In conclusion we have only to repeat what has been said in former reports, viz., that the Asylum is in the best order, and its condition highly creditable to Dr. and Mrs. Hitchman.

“ W. B. CAMPBELL, } “ Commissioners
 “ ROBERT NAIRNE, } in Lunacy.”

Mr. Langley, the Steward, Miss Hearden and William Joyce, the Chief Attendants, continue to exert themselves with great zeal in behalf of the Patients, and are entitled to my thanks.

I cannot conclude this brief Report without expressing my cordial gratitude to the Committee of Visitors, for aiding me by the appointment of an Assistant Medical Officer, and for the generous support which they have always extended to me.

JOHN HITCHMAN, M.D.

January 1st, 1866.

ORDINARY DIET.

BREAKFAST.				DINNER.												SUPPER.																	
Males.		Females.		Males.						Females.						Males.			Females.														
	Bread.		Milk Porridge.		Bread.		Milk Porridge.		Beer.		Bread.		Uncooked Meat.		Pie or Pudding.		Soup.		Stew.		Vegetables.		Beer.		Bread.		Cheese.		Bread.		Butter.		Tea.
	oz.	pt.	oz.	pt.		oz.	pt.		oz.		oz.		oz.		oz.		pt.		oz.		oz.		pt.		oz.		oz.		oz.		oz.		pt.
Sunday	6	1	5	1	6	7	..	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	12	5	7	..	..	..	1	..	12	5	7	..	12	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	2	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	1
Monday	6	1	5	1	6	..	..	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	5	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	12	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	2	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	
Tuesday ...	6	1	5	1	6	7	..	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	12	5	7	..	..	..	..	..	12	5	7	..	12	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	2	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	1
Wednesday	6	1	5	1	6	7	..	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	12	5	7	..	..	..	..	..	12	5	7	..	12	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	2	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	1
Thursday ..	6	1	5	1	6	$\frac{1}{2}$..	5	12	..	12	5	7	..	12	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	2	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	
Friday	6	1	5	1	6	7	..	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	12	5	7	..	..	..	..	..	12	5	7	..	12	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	2	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	1
Saturday...	6	1	5	1	6	..	14	..	$\frac{1}{2}$	..	5	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	2	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	5	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	

Workers $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Beer extra at 11 o'clock a.m., and at 4 o'clock p.m.

Laundry Women, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Beer, with Bread and Cheese, at 11 o'clock a.m., and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Beer at 4 o'clock p.m.

Great additions are made to the above table; Epileptic, palsied, aged, and weakly Patients are allowed extra diet, such as Pounded Meat, Fish, Rice, Egg, Tapioca, Sago, and Arrowroot Puddings; with Porter, Brandy, or Wine, under the direction of the Superintendent-Physician.

ARTICLES MADE BY THE FEMALE PATIENTS

Between the 1st January and the 31st December, 1865.

243	Aprons.
34	Bonnets.
205	Bolster Cases.
43	Bed Quilts.
106	Caps, Women's.
142	Caps, Men's.
269	Chemises.
39	Drawers.
233	Gowns.
276	Handkerchiefs.
7	Jackets
2	Mantles
24	Mattress Cases.
26	Pillow Cases.
57	Pinafores.
5	Rug Ticking
84	Stocks.
290	Sheets.
321	Shirts, Linen.
72	Shirts, Flannel.
15	Stays.
25	Shrouds.
4	Strong Dresses.
92	Towels.
33	Table Cloths.
228	Knitted Hose.
81	Petticoats.
61	Curtains.
18	Chair Covers.
57	Carpets.
66	Boot Uppers.
221	Dusters.
26	Blinds.
32	Nets.
3	Bags.
63	Iron Holders.

The whole of the Clothing and Bedding for the Patients is Made and Repaired in the Asylum.

General Statement of Receipts and Payments between January 1st and December 31st, 1865.

Dr.				Cr.					
Balance in Treasurer's hands on the 31st December, 1864				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Do. in Steward's hands				2020	3	1			
				56	10	9			
				2076 13 10					
RECEIPTS.									
Sundry Sales				38	2	9			
Officers' Uniform				22	17	0			
Transfer from County Rate Account				48	12	8			
				109 12 5					
Maintenance of Patients from Unions and Parishes belonging to this County				7816	17	2			
County Treasurer				98	2	6			
Unions and Parishes belonging to Out Counties				68	13	3			
Private Patients				112	6	0			
Funerals				26	5	0			
				8122 3 11					
Accounts due to Tradesmen for supplies to the 31st December, 1865				1633	18	2			
Officers' Salaries to Ditto				200	0	0			
				1833 18 2					
				£12,142 8 4					

Tradesmen for Supplies to the 31st December, 1864				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Officers' Salaries to ditto				1498	0	1			
				200	0	0			
				1698 0 1					
PAYMENTS.									
Provisions				3895	10	6			
House and other Expenses				1400	8	5			
Clothing				657	3	7			
Salaries and Wages				1942	8	3			
Extras for Sick				189	2	9			
				8084 13 6					
Supplies to Farm and Garden				402 7 10					
Balance in Treasurer's hands on the 31st December, 1865				1890	19	10			
Ditto in Stewards' hands				66	7	1			
				1957 6 11					
				£12,142 8 4					

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FROM THE 1ST DAY OF JANUARY TO THE 31ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 1865.

Examined.	(Signed)	T. PEACH.	JOHN LANGLEY,
		A. MOSLEY.	CLERK & STEWARD.

